(a) whether it is a fact that Government do not have a population policy, even after 50 years of independence, whereas our population is rapidly increasing;

(b) if so, the specific reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is also a fact that while 35 per cent of the people are living below the poverty line, with their number increasing at a very alarming rate, it is almost impossible for any economic policy to succeed unless the population growth is checked;

(d) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto; and

(e) the effective measures being taken or proposed to be taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) and (b) A statement on National Population was made in 1976 followed by a Statement of Policy on the Family Welfare Programme, made in 1977. A new draft Population Policy has now been prepared. This draft was laid on the Table of Rajya Sabha in reply to Starred Question No. 262 answered on 10th December, 1996.

(c) to (e) Government recognises lowering the growth rate of population to be a priority area. Measures adopted to this end are promotion of the adoption of contraception, and provision of quality reproductive and child health services, supported by information, education and communication.

Registration of Bachelor of Dental Surgery (BDS) of States

194. SHRI PARAG CHALIHA:
SHRI SHIV CHARAN SINGH:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian degrees of Bachelor of Dental Surgery (BDS) are accorded recognition in India by Dental Council of India;

(b) if so, whether some States of the Union refuse registration of BDS for one or more years on the plea that it can follow a gazette notification;

(c) if so, whether some agitation was launched against the practice in Mumbai, Pune, Sangli, etc.; and

(d) if so, whether the issue has since been resolved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) and (b) The Bachelor of Dental Surgery (BDS) degree of an Indian University is recognised by the Central Government on the recommendation of the Dental Council of India and a gazette notification is issued to this effect.

(c) and (d) The Government of Maharashtra have reported that there is unrest amongst the dental graduates for the recognition of BDS degree of Pune University, Amaravati University and Shivaji University situated in Maharashtra. The Dental Council of India have recommended for the recognition of BDS degree of these universities. The matter is under active consideration of the Central Government.

Seizure of life saving drugs near RML Hospital

195. SHRI AKHILESH DAS: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that expensive life-saving drugs, worth lakhs of rupees, have been seized recently by police from a slum cluster near Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital, New Delhi;

(b) if so, whether an enquiry in this regard has been instituted; and

(c) if so, with what results?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) As per information furnished by the Police and the Medical Superintendent, Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia

Hospital, some drugs have been seized by the Police from a Jhuggi, in Kali Bari Marg, New Delhi, the value of the seized drugs is said to be around Rs. 15,000;

(b) and (c) The Police has registered a case under section 103 of D.P. Act vide D.D. No. 19-A, dated 18.6.97, P.S. Mandir Marg. The accused was convicted on 19.6.97 with fine of Rs. 100/- and one day rigorous imprisonment. However, to examine whether these drugs had been pilferred from the Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital, the hospital authorities have requested the Commissioner of Police to get an enquiry conducted by their Crime Branch.

त्रिपुरा में प्राथमिक स्वास्थ्य केन्द्र और उप-केन्द्र

196. **श्री अनन्तराय देवशंकर दवे:** क्या प्रधान मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) सरकार द्वारा अब तक त्रिपुरा में प्राथमिक स्वास्थ्य केन्द्रों और स्वास्थ्य उप-केन्द्रों की स्थापना हेतु क्या मानदंड निर्धारित किये गये हैं तथा इस उद्देश्य हेतु कितनी धनराशि आवंटित की गई है;

(ख) आठवीं पंचवर्षीय योजनावधि के दौरान त्रिपुरा में कितने-कितने प्राथमिक स्वास्थ्य केन्द्र और उप-केन्द्र स्थापित किये गये हैं; और

(ग) ये केन्द्र जिला-वार किन-किन स्थानों पर स्थित हैं तथा इनमें से प्रत्येक को कितना-कितना धन आवंटित किया गया है?

स्वास्थ्य और परिवार कल्याण मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्रीमती रेणुका चौधरी): (क) अनुमोदित मानदंडों के अनुसार एक प्राथमिक स्वास्थ्य केन्द्र मैदानी और पहाड़ी एवं आदिवासी क्षेत्रों में क्रमशः प्रत्येक 30000 जनसंख्या और 20000 जनसंख्या के लिए और एक उप केन्द्र क्रमशः प्रत्येक 5000 जनसंख्या और 3000 जनसंख्या के लिए खोला जाता है। तथापि राज्य सरकार को अपनी सामाजिक-आर्थिक और भौगोलिक स्थितियों के अनुसार इन केन्द्रों को स्थापित करने के लिए मानदंडों में छूट है।

प्राथमिक स्वास्थ्य केन्द्रों की स्थापना और रख-रखाव राज्य सरकार द्वारा राज्य क्षेत्र के न्यूनतम आवश्यकता कार्यक्रम के अधीन किया जाता है। 1996-97 के दौरान त्रिपुरा को इस कार्यक्रम के अधीन 549.00 लाख रुपये आवंटित किए थे। राज्य में उप केन्द्रों के लिए 70.00 लाख रुपये आवंटित किए गए थे।

(ख) उपलब्ध सूचना के अनुसार त्रिपुरा में 1992 से दिसम्बर, 1996 तक 5 प्राथमिक स्वास्थ्य केन्द्र और 6 उप केन्द्र खोले गए थे।

(ग) केन्द्रीय सरकार जिलावार ब्यौरा नहीं रखती है।

Central Fund to Eradicate Malaria in Gujarat

197. SHRI AHMED PATEL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have provided Central funds to Gujarat to establish malaria treatment and drug distribution centres at the village level, throughout the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof for the last three years, year-wise;

(c) whether Government propose to increase the fund to enable the state Government to increase the number of such centres; if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the other measures being taken by Government to eradicate malaria in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) and (b) Fever Treatment Depots (FTDs) and Drug Distribution Centres (DDCs) under National Malaria Eradication Programme are established at the village level for distribution of Chloroquine in fever cases so that people in the inaccessible areas can get presumptive treatment. This is voluntary gesture. The services of members of the Panchayats, Post Masters, Community Leaders, School Teachers etc. are utilised to act as DDCs/FTDs for this purpose.

(c) Under the proposed enhanced Malaria Control Project with World Bank